

The United States has consistently supported peaceful ways for Sudan to resolve conflicts within the country as well as with South Sudan. The United States fully supports the recommendations and roadmap issued by the Africa Union Peace and Security Council in April of last year and UN Security Council Resolution 2046 in June 2012. In our search for ways to help in these peace processes, the United States has supported the work of the Africa Union High Level Implementation Panel, and has met frequently with representatives of the government of Sudan and the various opposition parties. Our message to parties in Sudan has always been the same. Sudan needs to address the fundamental issues that have led to conflict. These issues can only be resolved through political consultations and negotiations. There are no military solutions to the issues in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur. Moreover, the suffering of millions of Sudanese from these conflicts is a terrible humanitarian price for failure to find a peaceful outcome.

While the United States has been in dialogue with various parties in Sudan, the U.S. was not involved in the sponsoring, financing, organizing or the outcome of the recent meetings in Kampala between the Sudan Revolutionary Front and the National Consensus Forces. A delegation from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has been in Washington, D.C. since Wednesday meeting with U.S. Department of State officials to discuss how to reach a resolution to the conflict and humanitarian and human rights crisis in the Sudanese states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile ("the Two Areas"). These talks have only reinforced our view that agreement between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N for an immediate cessation of hostilities and humanitarian assistance is an urgent need. The SPLM-N has assured us that this is their priority. We urge the Government of Sudan to begin such talks at the earliest opportunity. This has also been the recommendation of the Africa Union and the UN Security Council.

The U.S. further urges the Government of Sudan to engage in a process of negotiations with all opposition parties and to open the way for full participation of those parties as well as civil society in the discussions of a new constitution and in the promotion of a civic culture of democracy, human rights and inclusiveness.